

# Local thrift store celebrates their fifth year in business

By Karen Krien

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Bird City business, 2nd Beginnings, is celebrating five years in business.

Cindy Burr, owner and operator, said she started the thrift store because she felt like there was a need for it in Bird City. And, she said, at the time she was bored with sitting at home every evening.

"The kids were grown and gone, and school was no longer a central part of my life," she said. "I thought I needed something to do and cleaning house was not that something!"

The thrift store carries clothing, shoes, housewares and furniture. Volunteer workers are Bonnie Burr, Avis Hazuka, Marlene Young, Linda Carroll and Isabelle Hedrick. Barb Gerdes is in charge of the store when Mrs. Burr is not available.

Anyone is welcome to volunteer including youth, she said. We can always find something for volunteers to do.

The profits from the store, she said, go back to the local com-

munity and schools. Different school activities have received donations as well as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H and the Special Olympics. Other community activities receiving funds include Santa Day, the food bank and the Bird City park restoration.

"I am always looking for places that need help," she said.

The business would not have been successful, she said, if it were not for the all patrons of the store as well as all the donors. 2nd Beginnings could not function without everyone's support.

Being creative, she finds her favorite part of running the business is coming up with ideas for window displays. It is amazing, she said, what you can put together with items that are donated to the store.

With few window fronts in Bird City, people appear to enjoy driving by just to see what we've come up with.

She also thinks it is rewarding that 2nd Beginnings offers a place for people who don't have a lot of money to shop. One little girl,

she said, always asks her parents, "Can we go to the mall?"

"Who says little towns don't have everything?" Mrs. Burr said. "It is all in your perspective."

Her future plans for the business is to just keep it going.

"As long as we all own too much stuff, there will always be a need for somewhere to go with it," she said. "And, who doesn't like a bargain?"

Mrs. Burr said there is a need for furniture so she asks that people keep 2nd Beginnings in mind if they are getting new furniture and need some place to go with the old.

"Consignments of this type have helped out many people over the last five years," she said.

### Anniversary sale

In celebration of the fifth anniversary, there will be a \$5 sack sale on everything except consignment items on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 5, 7 and 8. There will also be special prices on consignment items. (See ad in this issue for more information.)



VOLUNTEERS Avis Hazuka, Isabelle Hedrick and Barb Gerdes straighten up the racks at 2nd Beginnings Thrift Store.



ROD KLEPPER, Larry Henry and Junior Magley talk about old times after the senior center potluck.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

## Senior center holds meeting

By Norma Martinez

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The Bird City senior recreation center was a busy place on Monday. Over 30 people were there from 8 to 10 a.m. for coffee. At 11 a.m., the board members held an executive meeting.

Mila Bandel, county health nurse, was there until noon doing blood sugar and blood pressure check.

After everyone enjoyed the potluck lunch, a business meeting was held with president, Bonnie Burr, presiding. All the board members were there.

Mrs. Burr gave special recognition to Marlene Young, who has been lining up the cakes for the monthly birthday parties, and to Esther Boone, who is responsible

for putting the birthday and potluck dates in the newspaper.

Rod Klepper was thanked for devoting his time to building shelves and purchasing tubs to be used as storage units in the back room.

During the executive session it was decided that the center needed to get rid of the antique sink.

"It takes a man and a kid to open the drawers," Mrs. Burr said. Every one present agreed.

They said they would like to get a sink with a garbage disposal. Once they determine where the funds will come from to pay for it, Mr. Klepper will buy it and see that it is installed.

Next month is re-election time. The president appointed Vanetta Haack, Hollis DePron, and Pas-

tor Tom Bailey as the nominating committee.

Mr. Klepper purchased the *Bird City Times* and several other local newspapers for the center so residents can come in and read them. He asked if there were enough residents reading them to renew the papers. Edna Roesener brought up that after the newspapers arrive, Rosemary Powell cuts out the obituaries and then recycles them.

Mr. Klepper said he noticed *The Herald* is the official county newspaper and contains more articles on county events than the *Bird City Times*. He thought they might want to add that down the line.



JOE CHECK with Check Construction from Goodland is putting the artificial brick on the first unit of the Senior Housing Unit. Construction workers are hard at work with plans of having it completed by October 1, for the first resident.

## Second generation brick mason works on the apartment complex

By Norma Martinez

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Joe Check is a second generation brick mason. In 1965 Joe moved to Goodland and started Check Construction. "I went there thinking I was going to get rich doing brick work," he says. At that time there were seven brick masons living in Goodland and today, he says, there is only one younger brick mason that he knows of. All the older generation of brick masons come from as far as St. Francis to do work in Goodland at the present time.

He no longer does brick work. Some of his last brick work was done on the Bird City Housing

Authority Complex on 5th street and a couple other projects in Bird City, because of that he accepted the offer to do the apartment complex.

The brick he is putting on these housing units is artificial brick, and as he works away with the brick facing on the apartment complex, says, "Today brick masons are a dyeing trade, as everyone is going to the imitation brick to keep the price down."

Speed he says, is more important than quality now days. Mr. Check takes his time, and is the only one he knows of who takes the extra effort to apply an adhesive on the imitation brick before

spreading the mortar. He feels this gives the imitation stone a stronger bond and he wants his work to hold.

Brick masons used to consider their work as pieces of art, all the older brick layers are either too old to handle the work, dying, or changing their trade to general construction work which is more plentiful and not as strenuous on the back.

A good brick job not only adds beauty to the house, or buildings, but to the neighborhood as well. Joe Checks work does to the neighborhood appearance the same as a famous piece of art does to a museum.

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